嘘解きレトリック
3
都戸利津
Shoujo Sense
Usotoki Rhetoric
by Miyako Ritsu
Chapter 11
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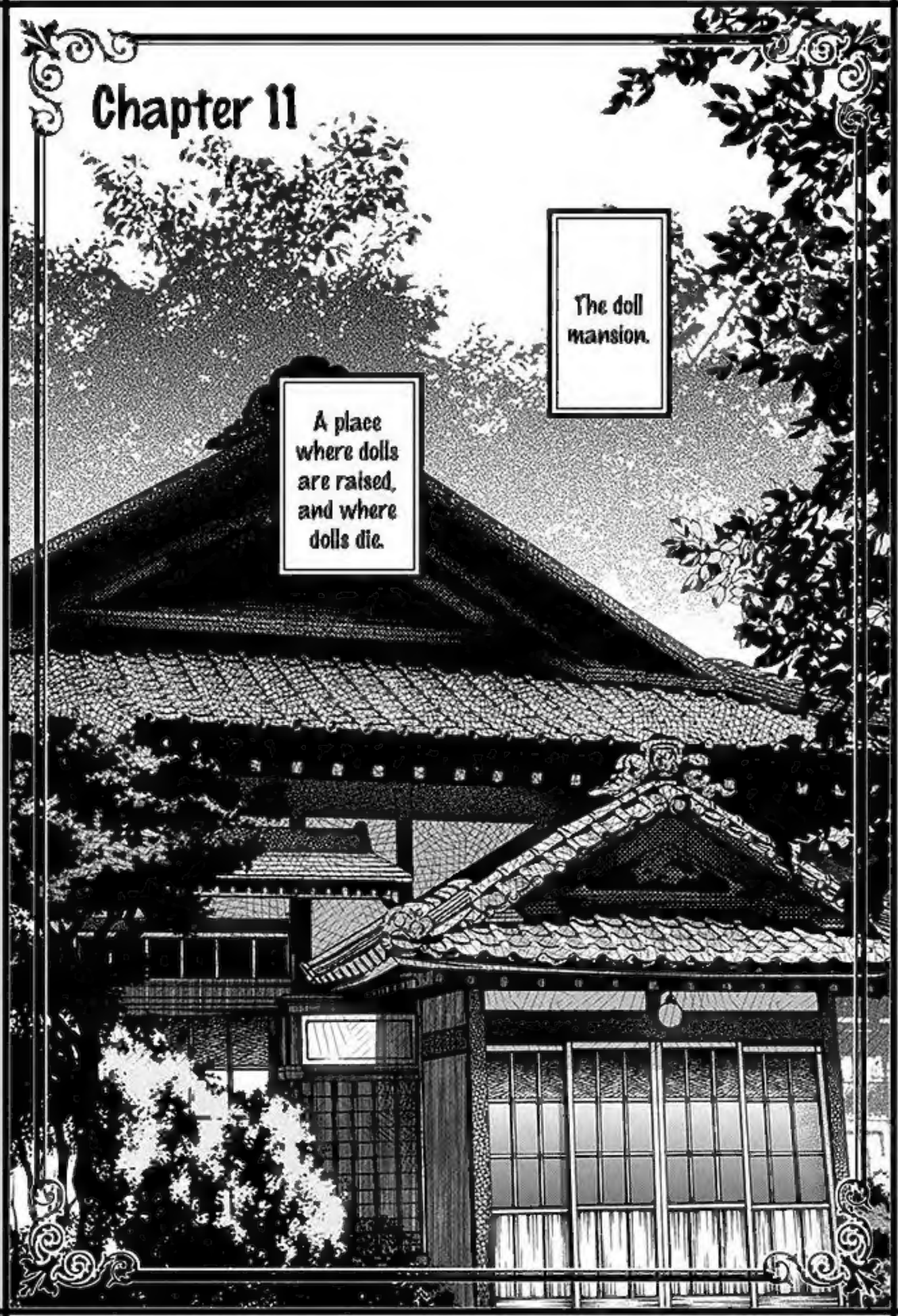
Chapter 11


The doll mansion.
A place where dolls are raised, and where dolls die.

"Because it's horrible."

The owner of the doll mansion,

"They say"

"she looks like a doll."

Shinako-san.

SFX: SLAM!

SFX:OPEN

Huh?

UM...

Why did she close the door?

I SCREWED UP...

I SHOULD HAVE SAID "EXCUSE ME" BEFORE OPENING THE DOOR.

I FORGOT.

It seems that,

IT'S ALL RIGHT!

She's so cute...

I HAVEN'T TALKED TO A LOT OF PEOPLE, SO I'M NOT GOOD AT CONVER-SATIONS.

when they say that Shinako-san is like a doll, they only mean her appearance.

I'M SORRY.

I DON'T HAVE FRIENDS EITHER.

I'VE BEEN VERY WEAK SINCE I WAS YOUNG, SO I COULDN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU RARELY LEAVE THE MANSION.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE GOOD AT CONVER-SATIONS.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO INVESTIGATE HERE.

in this mansion by the mountain.

I see.

AFTER MOM AND DAD DIED, IT'S JUST ME WHO WAS LEFT.

Shinako-san, has always been alone

ABOUT THE DOLL DYING,

OR ABOUT A DOLL KILLING INE-SAN.

DON'T WRITE ANYTHING WEIRD OR FUNNY.

PLEASE DON'T WRITE ABOUT IT.

BA

HUH?

DUMP

I'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF REQUESTS TO INVESTIGATE HOW INE-SAN DIED.

HE SAID HE WANTED TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE GIRL WHO WAS CURSED BY DOLLS.

I REFUSED.

BUT THERE WAS STILL THIS REPORTER WHO SNEAKED IN AND TOOK PHOTOS OF ME.

Shinako-san...

THAT'S TERRIBLE ...

OUR LAWYER SAYS,

THEY SHOULDN'T BE SPYING ON US LIKE THAT.

IF WE CAN GET PROPERLY INVESTIGATED AND HAVE AN ARTICLE WRITTEN ABOUT IT, IT WOULD DEFLATE THE MYSTERY.

HE TOLD ME THAT YOU WON'T LIE IN YOUR ARTICLE, HANASAKI-SAN.

GUESS SO!

Yep, she definitely had connections...

よりによって心霊雑誌に…

TEXT: AND SHE HAPPENED TO WORK IN A MAGAZINE ABOUT THE PARANORMAL...

I'M SORRY, SHINAKO-SAN.

But Miyabi-san did say...

"Nothing good will come out of spreading these baseless rumors and hurting more people."

THAT IT'S IMPORTANT TO INVESTIGATE THIS PROPERLY AND WRITE A GOOD ARTICLE.

SO THAT WE CAN SQUASH THE CURIOSITY OF PEOPLE LIKE ME.

OF COURSE, I'M ALSO CURIOUS ABOUT THE GIRL WHO LOOKS LIKE A DOLL.

MIYABI-SAN!

SO I UNDERSTAND.

I WAS ALSO CURIOUS ABOUT THE DOLL WHO WAS RAISED LIKE A PERSON,

AND ABOUT THE DOLL WHO DIED.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE CUSTOMS IN THIS HOUSE?

I THINK IT WOULD WORK BETTER IF I WROTE A LEVELHEADED ARTICLE.

SO PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU.

"The Case of the Doll Murderer" Hanasaki Miyabi's Field Report

Investigation Starts: 5:20PM, talking to the female owner, S.

YEAH.

THE DOLLS ARE IN A SEPARATE AREA.

BY THE WAY,

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY DOLLS HERE AT ALL...

The A premises, the doll mansion,

is located

by the garden at a separate place from the main building.

OH, SO THE DOLL'S ROOM IS IN A SEPARATE PLACE.

THIS IS THE DOLL'S ROOM.

THE ONLY TIME ANYONE ELSE CAN ENTER IS TO DELIVER FOOD.

I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE DOLLS.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO BE ABLE TO ASK YOU SOME THINGS WHEN WE'RE INSIDE.

BUT,

SHIBATA-SAN AND THE POLICE WERE ABLE TO GO INSIDE, WEREN'T THEY?

Amazing detective.

On the day the doll died.

They went inside to search for the dead body.

YES.

THEY SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR A CORPSE.

EVEN WHEN I TOLD THEM NO.

IT'S OKAY, SHINAKO-SAN.

OKAY.

WILL YOU LET ME SEE THEM DURING THEIR DINNERTIME?

CAN WE GO IN WHEN YOU GIVE THEM FOOD?

I WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE CUSTOMS OF THIS HOUSE, SO I'M GOING TO GO BY THE RULES.

OKAY!

GREAT, SO BEFORE THEN, WILL YOU LET ME ASK YOU A FEW MORE QUESTIONS?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "BUTTER UP"...

SHE'S WAY TOO GOOD AT BUTTERING PEOPLE UP.

YES. THAT'S WHAT'S SO TERRIFYING ABOUT HER.

HAS SHINAKO-SAN REALLY OPENED UP TO MIYABI-SAN, HASN'T SHE?

WELL YOU'RE ENTHUSIASTIC TODAY, KANOKO-KUN.

AND SHE WASN'T LYING!!

MIYABI-SAN SAID SHE WANTED TO HELP SHINAKO-SAN.

won't be alone anymore like I was.

WELL,

IT'S CAUSE THIS INVESTIGATION CAN CLEAR SHINAKO-SAN'S REPUTATION. DON'T YOU THINK?

Maybe Shinako-san

YEAH!!

COMING!

What are you doing there?

KANOKO-CHAAN.

SOUMA-KUUN,

That's right

FREE

THERE'S REALLY NOTHING FOR US TO DO HERE ASIDE FROM BEING SUPPORTIVE

THAT HOUSE...

DETECTIVE? WHAT IS IT?

At set times during breakfast, lunch, and dinner, a servant will bring in the doll's meal to that detached house.

Then, Shinako-san goes with them to take the used tray and bring it back to the main house.

She eats her meals at the main house (If it's during dinner time, she takes a bath right after),

then, she goes back to the detached house.

Shinako-san's life

definitely seems strange at first glance.

She sleeps in that separate house.

YOU REALLY HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME

HAS SUCH A HIGH ROOF..

SO SHINAKO-SAN,

DO YOU MAINLY STAY IN THAT DETACHED HOUSE?

2

■人形殺人事件編

「人形屋敷」こと

桜屋邸の作画モデル

は北海道小樽の

旧青山邸。行った時

ちょうど牡丹がきれい

に咲いてて ゴージャス

でした。滝のお堂は、

鳥取県の投入堂。

投入堂は体力に自信が

なくて行けません…。

すごいくびれ

砂丘で精一杯ー。

the main house lost its owners.

And the whole arrangement started to seem strange.

BECAUSE IT'S MY ROOM.

MY PARENTS DON'T GO INSIDE THE DETACHED HOUSE.

Huh.

The parents, who own this mansion, can't enter her room?

NOPE.

SO ONLY YOU AND YOUR PARENTS CAN GO TO AND FROM THE MAIN HOUSE AND THE SEPARATE HOUSE

BUT DIDN'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL LONELY.

LIVING SEPARATELY FROM YOUR PARENTS?

I HAVE LIVED SEPARATELY FOR SO LONG.

I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW I WAS BORN.

BUT DAD HAS ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT THEY DID THIS SO THAT I CAN ALWAYS BE HEALTHY.

IT'S DINNER TIME, SHINAKO-SAN.

I WILL BE BRINGING THE FOOD TRAY TO THE DETACHED HOUSE...

UM.

EXCUSE ME.

I'M GOING TO BE SHOWING OUR GUESTS AROUND,

SO I'LL BE THE ONE TO BRING IT TODAY.

UNDER-STOOD. I WILL PREPARE YOUR OUTDOOR SHOES.

At 6:00 P.M.,

they take the dinner tray and bring it to the detached house.

guides us through the dark gardens.

A small lamp

perched on top of the tray

THIS IS THE DOLL ROOM.

!!

WHAT A VIEW

THE DOLLS WERE CREATED TO MATCH MY HEIGHT OVER TIME.

AND THERE WERE DOLLS GIVEN AS GIFTS BY MY DAD AND HIS ASSOCIATES.

They gave the dolls to the dolls?

THE TRAY.

flip

SO JUST LIKE THIS,

I REPLACE THE LUNCH TRAY WITH THE DINNER TRAY.

Hold still

This elaborately designed

life-sized doll

feels like it can move anytime.

SFX CLINK

THIS DOLL HAS A SCAR ON ITS FACE...?

IT GOT HIT.

UM, SHINAKO-SAN,

SO THIS WAS THE DOLL THAT FELL.

BY THE FOOT OF THE TRAY WHEN INE-SAN PUT POISON IN IT.

SFX UWAAAH

SFX ぺシ

CAN I TAKE A PICTURE OF IT ON THE GROUND?

IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR INE-SAN TO MISTAKE THIS FOR A PERSON, RIGHT?

Sure.

CAN YOU PUT THE DOLL BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL POSITION?

THANK YOU.

SFX CLICK

EVEN IN PICTURES YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL IF IT'S A DOLL OR A HUMAN UNLESS YOU LOOK AT IT CLOSELY

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT,

IT'S ALL JUST A SMALL BUT SAD COINCIDENCE.

DID THE DOLL THAT INE-SAN WAS HOLDING WHEN SHE DIED COME FROM HERE?

THE POLICE CAME HERE TO INVESTIGATE, RIGHT? DID THEY FIND OUT ANYTHING?

BY THE WAY,

IF INE-SAN DIDN'T PUT THAT POISON THE NEXT MORNING,

SHE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE THE MISTAKE.

I DID HAVE A DOLL MISSING FROM HERE.

"He said he has never even seen it before."

"We asked Ine's brother about the doll she was holding when she died."

SO IT WAS STOLEN?!

COULD IT BE INE-SAN?!

This place is locked

JUST SUDDENLY

DISAP-PEARED FROM THIS ROOM.

clatter

...THE DOLL...

INE-SAN WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE TRAYS HERE, RIGHT?

YOU DIDN'T REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE,

BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO PROTECT INE-SAN.

Ine-san is a thief...?!

MAYBE...

BUT THAT WOULD MEAN INE-SAN IS A THIEF .

WILL YOU WRITE ABOUT IT?

did say the police didn't know anything.

IT IS RELATED TO THE MYSTERY ...

BUT I DON'T HAVE PROOF, SO I CAN'T WRITE THAT IT WAS STOLEN .

Let me think about it

Can we find a motive here of why the maid was killed?

(Still needs confirmation)

SFX PEEK

I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE.

FREE

YOU CAN'T JUST TOUCH WHATEVER YOU WANT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SOUMA-KUN?

!!

THAT KIMONO.

They're precious dolls,

IS THE SAME AS THE ONE THAT THE DOLL IS WEARING.

I HAVE TWO OF EACH KIMONO.

I DID HEAR THAT THE DOLLS CHANGE THEIR CLOTHES EVERY DAY...

NOT EVERY DAY.

Cause she's rich too.

Miyabi-san isn't even reacting..

POOR

POOR

Made to wear high-quality kimono

and hidden from everyone else's sight.

I DO IT MYSELF.

IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU TO DO IT ALONE .. AND YOU'D HAVE TO CLEAN UP HERE TOO...

BUT SINCE THE MAIDS CAN'T ENTER EXCEPT FOR BRINGING FOOD.

YOU COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS ALONE, COULD YOU?

YOU'VE BEEN LIVING AWAY FROM YOUR PARENTS EVEN BEFORE,

SINCE YOU WERE A KID?

MY MOM AND DAD DIED,

BEFORE THEY COULD TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

I DON'T KNOW.

tap

So the nanny and the nurse-maid could go in..?

WHEN I WAS YOUNG THERE WAS THE NANNY AND THE NURSE-MAID,

THEY WERE HERE WITH ME.

WHERE SHOULD I START WRITING ABOUT THIS CUSTOM?

MAYBE FROM YOUR MOTHER'S CHILD-HOOD?

I DON'T CARE IF EVERYONE THINKS IT'S CREEPY.

It might take a while but as long as it works.

I have to write something very persuasive

IT WILL BE HARD TO DISPEL THE IMPRESSION EVERYONE HAS ABOUT THIS STRANGE CUSTOM...

HMMM. IF WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT,

IT'S A WAY OF LIFE

THAT MY MOM AND DAD IMPARTED TO ME.

I'M GOING TO PROTECT IT.

YOU REALLY LOVE YOUR PARENTS.

"I don't care if everyone thinks it's creepy."

Shinako-san

is a strong person.

GRUM. BLE

Bad timing!!

Gloom!

I'M HUNGRY TOO.

LET'S GO BACK TO THE MAIN HOUSE TO EAT.

AHA HAHAHA.

From the outside, it seems like a strange custom,

but her parents were just concerned for her.

and now that they're gone,

SO YOU HAVE THE SAME FOOD AS THE DOLL'S.

It is their daughter who is continuing this tradition for them.

YOU'RE A GUEST HERE, I'LL GET IT...

Just let me do this, at least.

FOR THE FREE MEAL

AH, THEN I'LL GO GET ONE FOR YOU!

OH,

MINE DOESN'T HAVE CHOP-STICKS ...

Hm?

Rice~

Rice~

It's not a problem!

I'm sorry!

It looked like Shinako-san

was in that detached house...

Just now,

WE HAVE FISH AND VEGETABLES DELIVERED ONCE EVERY TWO DAYS.

AND FIREWOOD AND COAL ARE DELIVERED ONCE A MONTH.

But she's here in the main house.

AH, THANK YOU, KANOKO-CHAN.

"She broke her leg when she was young, but was able to walk immediately after."

Can it be...

SHINAKO-SAN,

DO YOU HAVE A TWIN?

"And the only one who looks like that around here is Shinako-san."

"But at that time,"

"she was with us and the police while we were looking for the corpse."

She's not lying...

NOPE.

Could I just be seeing things too?

"I've started thinking that maybe I just made a mistake."

OKAY, THEN.

That's right.

AH, NO, HERE YOU GO!

WHAT'S WRONG, KANOKO-CHAN?

THANKS, NOW LET'S EAT.

It's impossible.

"The daughter's doll, or the doll's daughter?"

LET'S EAT!

glance

Even the detective who usually notices everything

doesn't think there's anything wrong.

"So you are having Chiyo-san"

"take the car as a safety precaution."

"Did you change your usual dishcloths?"

"I've been alone,"

"since mom and dad died."

munch

And Shinako-san,

hasn't lied at all.

So good

THANK YOU FOR TODAY, SHINAKO-SAN.

IF WE CAN TALK ABOUT YOUR PARENTS MORE, I CAN PUBLISH THIS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

BUT I'LL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE UNTIL I GET THE WHOLE PICTURE.

I'M NOT YET SURE HOW THIS CUSTOM STARTED OR WHY YOU DO IT,

THANK YOU!

Especially if there're pictures

ONCE THE ARTICLE IS OUT, WE CAN PUT AN END TO ALL THESE SPECULATIONS.

MAYBE YOU CAN TRY GOING OUT OF THE MANSION FOR A BIT?

AND THE WAY YOU SMILE MAKES YOU SEEM MORE APPROACH-ABLE.

THAT'S RIGHT!!

IF PEOPLE SEE YOU I'M SURE THEY'LL UNDERSTAND!!

OKAY!

I wish

Just like how I found the detective,

Doll killer incident info (Start) 5:20PM

IN THE FIRST PLACE,

"THE DOLL KILLER INCIDENT" SOUNDS A BIT STRANGE.

♪

THAT'S WHY I REALLY NEED TO WRITE THIS ARTICLE.

flip flip

Shinako-san finds someone she can trust.

SINCE NO ONE WAS ACTUALLY KILLED.

YEP. NO ONE DIED IN THIS HOUSE.

AND INE-SAN'S CASE WAS PROBABLY A SUICIDE OR AN ACCIDENT.

I, I'M FINE!!

panic

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KANOKO-CHAN?

panic

十三十

SFX: CLATTER

Why?

IT'S BETTER WITH THE DAY-LIGHT.

OH, AND CAN I ALSO TAKE PICTURES OF THE DOLL DURING BREAK-FAST?

SURE.

"Yep. No one died in this house."

"And Ine-san's case was probably a suicide or an accident."

That was

a lie.

Chapter 10 / END